

THE CARRIER



August 2001 <http://www.mdarc.org> <http://www.pacificon.org>

**Official Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo
Amateur Radio Club**

YOUR HOBBY—YOUR CHARACTER

I have been thinking about how much fun my short five years as a ham has been. The excitement of that first QSO. How quietly embarrassed I was calling “CQ” on 2 meter, to learn later that it’s not done on VHF. The sweaty palms on my first contact around the world with my general license.

I am so grateful that I am able to participate on public service events—the bikes, walks, horse rides, and Alcatraz swims. The participants are so very appreciative to have us there to help assure their safety during their fund raising events. Hearing people on the air discussing their technical challenges or recent discoveries shows me that the human spirit of adventure is alive and well.

This hobby has so many aspects that there is room for all. Those people who like to be part of a major team effort have the famous PACIFICON in which to participate. Those who love the technical details are involved in our excellent technical committee, keeping our many repeaters running.

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if all of us had a career that was this much fun. In my financial planning practice I get the same feeling of satisfaction from helping a family or business as I do looking out for a swimmer in the Bay. But to me the true mark of a man, or woman, is the ethics and honesty in which they perform their job or hobby. Getting paid or not has nothing to do with the quality in which you do anything. In business it is too easy to take advantage of someone who knows less than the “professional”. He can get away with it maybe once—but don’t look for repeat business, or a very good reputation. Or more important, don’t look for that feeling in your heart that you did the best possible job in helping that client, or friend.

It’s the same thing with our hobby (or any hobby). When called upon to help another person—whether it’s an active ham, a person studying to get licensed, or a widow trying to sell all that gear that’s sadly no longer being used—our integrity and values come into play. We owe it to ourselves and our deepest beliefs to follow the golden rule. Our hobby, our career, our relationships with others—the golden rule should still be our guide.

73, Terry

**General Meeting
Friday August 17
7:30 PM**

**ATV — How You Can Transmit
Fast Scan Television**

Dan Bent, KF6IQL

Our Savior’s Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane
Lafayette CA

What's inside

President’s Message	1
Upcoming Events	2
Races ID Cards News	3
Field Day Photos	6
Board Members	9
Calendar	Back

Weekly Nets

Monday 8:00 PM SATERN Net Salvation Army 147.06
Wednesday 7:30 PM ATV Cable Channel 58
Thursday 7:30 PM Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club 147.06
RACES Nets see page 2

RACES Nets

Every Thursday at 19:00 hours

Central County Jim Brunk N6BHX 145.680 /s

South County Ed Ritchie K6SFD 146.355 /+
100pl

East County Jim Tittle KC6SOE 146.535 /s

West County Rich Parker KD6JCT 145.110 /-

Upcoming Radio Communication Events

Pete Harris, KE6ZIW, odyssey@ccnet.com

The events listed below are coming up in the near future and still have some slots available. For most events all you need is a hand-held 2 meter radio and an extra battery. Give me a call or email to sign up (925-228-4503, odyssey@ccnet.com). If you want more information about a particular event, call me or the event coordinator. If you are new to this and want to break in gently, we can team you up with another ham.

Pacific South Trailride 9/8/01, Redwood & Anthony Chabot Regional Parks Event Coordinator: Tom Seabury, 925-837-4433

Del Valle Trailride 10/6/01, Del Valle Event Coordinator: Tom Seabury, 925-837-4433

Mt. Diablo Challenge Bike Ride 10/7/01, Mt. Diablo, Southern Slope Event Coordinator: Ed Ritchie, 925-837-3265

Sign up! You'll have a great time and be giving something valuable back to your community.

73's Pete Harris, KE6ZIW

List of Scheduled Activity for W6CX ATV

SATURDAYS 8:00 AM COFFEE NET

SUNDAYS 8:00 AM COFFEE NET

WEDNESDAY 7:30 PM ELECTRONICS
CLASS WITH KF6IQL

THURSDAY 8:00 PM. GENERAL ATV NET

DMV Rejects KM6QX License Plate

This morning, a local gas station was unable to smog-check my 4-Runner because, according to the DMV database, my VIN did not match my "KM6QX" license plate. I checked the VIN number and yes, I was still driving the same vehicle. Then upon close examination of my registration slip and smog renewal notice, I noticed a space had been printed after the six, "KM6_QX."

The smog station tried entering a space before the Q but that didn't solve the problem. So off I went to the DMV office to clear up this clerical (?) error. After a short wait (really!) the first person I talked to was fairly confident he knew what the problem was. Although he spent 5 minutes trying to log onto a terminal, and then another 5 minutes of trial-and-error, he was finally able to get the DMV computer to recognize my license plate number. The answer; enter a space before the K and before the Q, i.e. "_KM6_QX."

Why? Well here's my educated guess. The DMV database allocates 7 digits for a license plate; typically 1 number + 3 letters + 3 numbers, e.g., 1ABC234. Ham calls are separated into the last two fields, possibly to be compatible with the FCC database for verification. Then, some database programmer decided that license plate 'numbers' should be in right justified 'numeric' fields! Therefore, the DMV computer thinks my "KM6QX" license plate is really "_KM6_QX."

So heads-up if you try to smog check a vehicle with Ham call-sign plates. Also, this may explain why the police couldn't 'run your plate' the last time you were stopped.

John Stuart, KM6QX, a.k.a. " KM6 QX"

Log Periodic Antennas
**2M, 220, 440 Bands**
Covers entire band
No Tuning Required...Ever!
ELK ANTENNAS
For More Information Please contact Ray (925) 933-3242
Pete (925) 934-2993
email: rgaschk@tpi.net
2680 CHERRY LANE
WALNUT CREEK, CA
94596-2161

RACES ID Card News

Mike Patterson, KE6JGA

It looks like we may finally have procedures for getting RACES member applicants fingerprinted and for getting ID cards made for our membership. There is good news and bad news for both. The bad news is that more paperwork is involved. Also, both must be processed in downtown Martinez during normal business hours. I realize this is a hardship for some of you, but this is what we have, and it is a process that should work.

The good news is that things should move more quickly and reliably from now on. Much more quickly. Note that neither of these procedures have been beta-tested yet by RACES though, so I would appreciate comments, pro and con, from those who try them out.

Fingerprints:

Fingerprints are no longer being accepted on paper cards. They must be done electronically. This is done using a system called a "Live Scan". It requires a new form to be filled out. I have copies, along with a template to show which fields need to be completed and which do not. So the process is:

1.) Get a copy of the form "Request for Live Scan Service", form BCII 8016. Get it from me if you can. Normally I will give you a copy along with your RACES membership application. It is a 3-copy carbonless form.

If you need one and for some reason can't get it from me, contact Dep. Troy Francis at: Office of Emergency Services (OES)
50 Glacier Drive
Martinez, CA
925/646-4461

2.) Fill in only the indicated fields on the form, as shown on the template I have or as directed by Dep. Francis.

3.) Call the Services department of the Sheriff's Office (S.O.) to ensure that someone will be available to take your prints when you come. Phone number is 925/335-1572.

4.) Take the "Request For Live Scan Service" form and a photo ID to the S.O. Services department at: 500 Court Street
Martinez, CA

This must be done during normal business hours. The staff there will take the fingerprints electronically, make copies and fill out the bottom of the form. You will be given two copies of your prints and two of the three copies of the completed form.

5.) Return one copy of the prints and the "Requesting Agency" copy of the form to me. Alternatively, you can take them directly to Deputy Francis at OES. If you do take them directly to Deputy Francis, please advise me that you have done so.

6.) You may keep the other copy of your prints and the form.

ID Cards

1.) Once applicants have been approved for membership, I will submit their names to the Coordinator of Volunteer Services for ID card approval.

If your ID card has been lost or stolen, you will need to document the loss to me, using an email message or note in the mail. I can then submit that to Volunteer Services with a request for a replacement.

I currently show five active members without ID cards. I am re-submitting their names now.

2.) You will be notified when your name has been forwarded to the S.O. administration by Volunteer Services.

3.) When notified, call Elizabeth in S.O. administration at 925/335-1503 for an appointment to have your ID card made. Again, the appointment must be during business hours.

4.) At the appointed time, go to the S.O. at 651 Pine Street, Martinez. Take a photo ID with you. Elizabeth will arrange to have your photo taken and your ID card made on the spot. You should leave with your ID card.

Event numbers and waiting for your card to be made are no longer needed. That's the best news of all.

Again, I realize that going into downtown Martinez during business hours for these items is a burden for some. At this time, we have no other alternatives. Should other methods or times become available, I will pass the word on.

Please let me know any questions you have. Also, EC's please pass this on to members that do not have email or are not on the distribution list.

I've had several questions about my note below, particularly concerning the fingerprinting procedure, such that I believe a clarification is needed.

Fingerprinting

The fingerprinting procedure below is for new applicants only. It does not apply to current members, whether or not you have received a new ID card. If you are a long term active member that has or used to have the old laminated ID card, you do not need to get fingerprinted again. If you are a newer member that has never had an ID card, but have been fingerprinted, investigated and approved for membership, you do not need to get fingerprinted again. There may be a few (very few) newer applicants that got caught in the transition, having been fingerprinted on paper, and now having to do it again electronically. But they would not be active members, yet. I'm not aware of anyone in this situation at this time. If you have been advised that you are an active member, you do not need to be fingerprinted again.

ID Cards

The ID card procedure applies only to those that are already active members but do not have the new style ID card. This includes all prior system members with the old laminated ID cards that never received a new one, and newer applicants that have been approved for membership, but never received an ID card.

The list of people currently eligible for a new ID card is much greater than I first reported. The five I stated in the first note are those that had a picture taken, received an "event number" but never got an ID card back from the S.O. The actual number of active members needing new ID cards is 54. The 49 other members never got around to getting their photo taken. Hopefully they will now. They popped up once I corrected my database search criteria. I have submitted all 54 names to the S.O. for approval to get photos taken.

Active Membership

Let me also take this opportunity to restate what "active membership" is, as I still occasionally talk to someone that is confused about it.

Active membership in Contra Costa County RACES/ARES means that you have applied for membership, been fingerprinted, investigated and approved by the Sheriff's Office. At that time, you are an active member. This may have been a month ago or a decade ago. Whether you have a current ID card or not makes no difference to your active status. In fact, most people will never really need to show their ID card to anyone to demonstrate membership. So if you do not now have a current ID card, don't worry about it too much. You still have all the rights and responsibilities of an active RACES/ARES member. You will still be allowed and expected to respond to an emergency if called out and you are still expected to attend the training sessions. Having said that, however, now that we have a working process to get ID cards for all members, you will be expected to get one within a reasonable time.

Another Clarification Concerning Prior System Members

A few years ago, the EC board decided that a number of changes and improvements in RACES/ARES was needed. Among them was to overhaul the membership database to make the information more accurate. I then designed a new application form that all new applicants now use to apply for membership.

The board also asked all then-existing members to fill out the same new application forms; not because they needed to re-apply for membership, but only to allow us to get the database up to date with current, accurate information about each member. Over the three or four years since we started this effort, unfortunately only about one-fourth of the prior membership has chosen to fill out one of the new forms. Those that did not are now inactive; in essence, no longer members of Contra Costa RACES. Those that did fill out the new form continued as active members in RACES and do not need to apply or be fingerprinted again, as long as they maintain their active status.

I hope this is more clear than my first note and I apologize for any confusion I may have caused.

Mike Patterson, KE6JGA



Field Day 2001





Please welcome our new members and note changes to existing members' listings. Please send changes to <mailto:ko6jr@arrl.net> or the Club PO Box. 73, Sam

Name, Call, License Class; Spouse Name & Call
Address, Phone numbers, e-mail

* = Rocky Ridge Supporter

Folger, David, WB6IYH (A); Lorraine david@folger.com
340 Squirrel Ridge Way, Danville, CA 94506 (h) 925-736-2140 (fax) 925-648-3131

Ghassemi, Ardavan(Ardu), KG6ECO (T); kg6eco@arrl.net
39523 Gallaudet Dr # 288, Fremont, CA 94538

Herman, Chuck, K6YM (E);
P.O. Box 262, Diablo, CA 94528 (h) 925-837-9288

* Holmes, Terry, NM6Z (E); Sheila nm6z@arrl.net
13250 Clairepointe Wy, Oakland, CA 94619 (h) 510-530-4668 (fax) 510-530-8203

* Murray, Christian S.(Chris), WD6GFR (T+); cmurrays@slip.net
2201 San Jose Dr. #W203, Antioch, CA 94509 (h) 925-755-7593

* Sherman, Frank, KG6GRF (T); Susan Sherman@moraga.k12.ca.us
541 Odin Drive, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

* Stamatelos, John, KA6VIJ (T+); Dianne john@stamatelos.com
1232 Pinecrest Dr, Concord, CA 94521 (h) 925-687-1161 (w) 408-745-4556

Thomas, Dorothy, KG6FPW (T);
1652 Broadway Apt #2, Concord, CA 94520

* Tittle, Jim, K6SOE (G); Andrea k6soe@arrl.net
178 Thomas Wy, Pittsburg, CA 94565 (h) 925-432-3220 (w) 510-222-8110 (fax) 925-427-7342

Trame, Michael, KE6LVI (T); Linda
2772 Provence Ct, Livermore, CA 94550 (h) 925-371-0405 (w) 925-944-0921
(fax) 925-371-1213

Vollert, Mitchell, KD6ZML (T+);
520 Van Buren Ave #106, Oakland, CA 94610

Every month we receive back one or two carriers because of a change of address. The post office will not forward your copy of the carrier and they send it back to us postage due. Please if you move, send us a post card with your new address so we can get your copy of the carrier to you without delay.

Remember our address is:

MDARC
PO Box 23222
Pleasant Hill, California 94523
Sincerely
Trevor Hall WA6JAU

MDARC Board of Directors

Position	Who	How to find them
President	Terry Matzkin KE6WRE	925-820-5848 (h) myword@sprynet.com
Vice President	Michael Burge KG6CSJ	925-283-4796 (h) mburge@earthlink.net
Secretary	Paul Dickey N6JOX	925-376-3971 (h) paulr33@earthlink.net
Treasurer	Trevor Hall WA6JAU	925-680-5209 (h) wa6jau@netzero.net
Emergency Coordinator	Harry Styron K6HS	925-945-6785 (h) k6hs@arri.net
Director at Large	Howard Burk KE6PTT	925-798-7208 (h) ke6ptt@bigfoot.com
Director at Large	John Schulze KR6CR	925-681-0552 (h) schulze2@ix.netcom.com
Director at Large	Mike Patterson KE6JGA	925-944-8786 (h) mapa@ieee.org
Director at Large	Tracey Schwartz KE6TOT	925-370-1917 (h) kurtps@earthlink.net
Membership Chair	Sam Lipson KO6JR	925-229-5705 (h) ko6jr@arri.net
Carrier Editor	Greg Estep KE6VTA	925-830-8615 (h) grestep@home.com

ANAHEIM, CA
(Near Disneyland)
933 N. Euclid St., 92801
(714) 533-7373
(800) 854-6046
Janet, KL7MF, Mgr.
anaheim@hamradio.com

BURBANK, CA
2492 W. Victory Bl., 91506
(818) 842-1786
(800) 854-6046
Eric, KA6IHT, Mgr.
Victory Blvd. at Buena Vista
1 mi. west I-5
burbank@hamradio.com

OAKLAND, CA
2210 Livingston St., 94606
(510) 534-5757
(800) 854-6046
Mark, W17YN, Mgr.
I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp
oakland@hamradio.com

SAN DIEGO, CA
5375 Kearny Villa Rd., 92123
(858) 560-4900
(800) 854-6046
Tom, KM6K, Mgr.
Hwy. 163 & Claremont Mesa
sandiago@hamradio.com

SUNNYVALE, CA
510 Lawrence Exp. #102
94085
(408) 736-9496
(800) 854-6046
Ken, K1ZKM, Mgr.
So. from Hwy. 101
sunnyvale@hamradio.com

NEW CASTLE, DE
(Near Philadelphia)
1509 N. Dupont Hwy., 19720
(302) 322-7092
(800) 644-4476
Rick, K3TL, Mgr.
RT.13 1/4 mi., So. I-295
newcastle@hamradio.com

PORTLAND, OR
11705 S.W. Pacific Hwy.
97223
(503) 598-0555
(800) 854-6046
Rich, N7FD, Mgr.
Tigard-SW exit
from Hwy. 5 & 217
portland@hamradio.com

DENVER, CO
8400 E. Iliff Ave. #9, 80231
(303) 745-7373
(800) 444-4767
Joe, KD0GA, Mgr.
John, N5EHP, Mgr.
denver@hamradio.com

PHOENIX, AZ
1939 W. Dunlap Ave., 85021
(602) 242-3515
(800) 444-4767
Gary, N7GJ, Mgr.
1 mi. east of I-17
phoenix@hamradio.com

ATLANTA, GA
6071 Buford Hwy., 30340
(770) 263-0700
(800) 444-7927
Mark, KJ4VO, Mgr.
Doraville, 1 mi. no. of I-285
atlanta@hamradio.com

WOODBIDGE, VA
(Near Washington D.C.)
14803 Build America Dr.
22191
(703) 643-1063
(800) 444-4799
Mike, N4MDK, Mgr.
Exit 161, I-95, So. to US 1
woodbridge@hamradio.com

SALEM, NH
(Near Boston)
224 N. Broadway, 03079
(603) 898-3750
(800) 444-0047
Chuck, KM4NZ, Mgr.
sales@hamradio.com
Exit 1, I-93
28 mi. No. of Boston
saalem@hamradio.com

12 Store Buying Power!



KENWOOD

TS-2000 HF/VHF/UHF TCVR

- 100W HF, 6M, 2M • 50W 70CM
- 10W 1.2 GHz w/optional UT-20 module
- IF Stage DSP • Built-in TNC, DX packet cluster
- Backlit Front Key Panel

Call Now For Low Intro Price!

TH-D7A(G) 2M/440

- 2M/440 Dual Band
- Built-in 1200/9600 Baud TNC
- APRS Compatible
- DX Packet Cluster Monitor
- 200 Mems., CTCSS
- VC-H1 Messaging Control

Call Now For Low Pricing!

TM-D700A 2M/440 Dualband

- 50W VHF 35W UHF • Opt. Voice Synthesizer
- Receives 118-1300 MHz (cell blocked)
- Remote Head Inst. only (kit included)
- 200 Memories • Built In 1200/9600 baud TNC
- Advanced APRS Features
- Dx Packet Cluster
- Tone Scan • GPS/VC-H1/PC Ports

COAST TO COAST
FREE SHIPPING
UPS - Most Items Over \$100

**Rapid Deliveries From
The Store Nearest To You!**

OAKLAND, CA
2210 Livingston St., 94606
(510) 534-5757
(800) 854-6046
Mark, W17YN, Mgr.
I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp
oakland@hamradio.com

SUNNYVALE, CA
510 Lawrence Exp. #102, 94085
(408) 736-9496
(800) 854-6046
Ken, K1ZKM, Mgr.
So. from Hwy. 101
sunnyvale@hamradio.com

ICOM

IC-706MkIIIG HF/VHF Transceiver

- All mode HF/6M/2M/70CM
- 100W HF/6M, 50W/2M, 20W/440 MHz
- AF-DSP • Plug and Play Filters - No Soldering
- Easy-to-Navigate Menus

Call For Low Pricing!

IC-756 PRO All Mode Transceiver

- 100W HF/6M • Newly designed 32 bit DSP
- 5 inch TFT color LCD • Digital IF filter with 41 passband widths
- 121 microphone equalized audio settings
- Multiple DSP controlled AGC loops
- Advanced CW functions
- Real time spectrum scope

Call Now For The Ultimate Radio!

YAESU

VX-5R 50/2M/440HT

- Wideband RX, 6M-2M-440HT
- 5W output
- 220 mems, opt. barometer unit
- Alpha Numeric Display
- CTCSS/DCS built-in
- Li-Ion Battery

Call For Low Price!

FT-100D HF/6M/2M/70CM Trans.

- Compact Transceiver w/detachable front panel
- Rx 100kHz to 970mHz (cell blocked)
- Tx 100W 160-6M, 50W 2M, 20W 70CM
- Built-in DSP, Vox, CW keyer
- 300 Memories

Call Now For Low Pricing!

FT-1000MP HF Transceiver

- Enhanced Digital Signal Processing
- Dual RX
- Collins SSB filter built-in
- 100W, Power supply built-in

Call Now For Low Pricing!

ALINCO

DJ-196T 2M HT

- 5 Watt out
- 40 memories
- Alphanumeric Display
- CTCSS • DCS Built-in
- "ST" Meter
- Auto Dialer

CALL NOW FOR LOW PRICE!

DR-135TP 2M Mobile

- 50 Watt out • Alpha Numeric Display
- 100 mems • Built-in TNC 1200 & 9600 Baud
- Front Panel GPS in • Rear DB-9 Port
- CTCSS/DCS Encode/Decode built in

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

08/17/2001	7:30 PM	MDARC General Meeting	
08/18/2001	8:00 AM	PACIFICON General meeting	Emil Villa's in Concord
8/24/2001		Carrier Deadline	
09/15/2001	8:00 AM	PACIFICON General meeting	Emil Villa's Willow Pass Rd
09/21/2001	7:30 PM	MDARC General Meeting	
09/28/2001		Carrier Deadline	

Carrier articles should be sent to Greg Estep <mailto:grestep@home.com>

MDARC Repeaters

147.060 MHz + / PL 100 Hz	ATV: Input 1284.25 Mhz
224.780 MHz - / PL 77 Hz	ATV: Output 427.250 MHz Cable Channel 58
441.325 MHz + / PL 100 Hz	ATV: Output 1241.25 Mhz
	APRS: 144.39 MHz
	TCP/IP: 145.71 MHz

The Carrier
Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 23222
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CONCORD, CA
PERMIT NO. 460

Change Service Requested